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The Youth Advocate

STATE DOCUMENTS

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

VOL. III, NO. 4

1977

Bremer, Harris Are Employees Of Year

COLUMBIA — The S. C. Department of Youth Services has named its accounting supervisor and the director of cottage life for the Birchwood Campus as its female and male employees of the year.

Selected were Mrs. Lois Bremer, an agency employee since 1971, and Tommy Harris, who has worked his way through five promotions to his present position. The announcement was made August 8 by State Director Grady A. Decell at the agency's annual meeting.

Mrs. Bremer, a Charleston native, is a graduate of Meminger High School and Rice Business College of Charleston. She worked with the S. C. Area Trade Schools — later renamed Midlands Tech — from 1945 until her transfer to the Department of Youth Services.

Mrs. Bremer initiated the accounting section's annual financial report booklet; prepared the first Indirect Cost Proposal for the agency and has been deeply involved with Title XX reports. She has served in every official capacity of the Springdale Women's Club, of which she is a charter member; she has been vice president of the Lexington County



Lois Bremer

Mental Health Association and is finance chairman of the S. C. Federation of Women's Clubs.

Harris, a native of Winnsboro, has been an agency employee since 1970. A Marine Corps veteran, Harris began as a security officer at Pickens cottage. He was subsequently reclassified as a youth counselor and has progressed through the agency's



Tommy Harris

three youth counselor grades and two grades as a director of cottage life.

Harris is enrolled at Midlands Tech in the Criminal Justice Program. He supervises 47 youth counselors and two other cottage life directors. He is responsible for the safety and treatment programs for the 150 students on the campus.

"These two employees exemplify the quality of dedication and leadership we encourage and expect from our staff," said Decell. "They are knowledgeable, loyal and dedicated. It is because of their talents we are able to work with problem children with the degree of success that we have."

Twenty agency employees — of more than six hundred — were given final consideration by staff employee awards committee. Candidates included Edward L. Boyd and Katheryn Bailey, Reception and Evaluation Center; Paul Sohn and Carroll Yongue, Willow Lane School; Bernard Edwards and Ms. Bobby Irick, John G. Richards School; Tommy Harris and Camille Graham, Birchwood Campus; and Joe King and Naomi B. Dickson, Education. Also, Sgt. Johnny Branham and Bennette Johnson, Public Safety; Rick Ayers and Pat Tolbert, Youth Bureau District I; Robert Green and Donna Farmer, Youth Bureau District II; Richard McKenna and Eleanor Laub, Youth Bureau Residential Care; and Virgil Barber and Lois Bremer, Central Administration.

Eaker Chief Psychologist

COLUMBIA — Dr. Hubert A. Eaker, Assistant Director of the Columbia Area Mental Health Center, has been named Chief Psychologist for the Department of Youth Services.

The announcement was made by Department of Youth Services' State Director Grady A. Decell. Eaker replaces Dr. Nancy Heckel.

Eaker, a native of Anderson, is a graduate of Anderson High School. He attended Furman University and the University of South Carolina, graduating with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 1969.



Dr. Hugh Eaker

Boys State Program To Begin At Agency

A Boys State program, similar to that sponsored annually by the American Legion, will be held at the agency in late October. Our agency is the first juvenile corrections agency in the nation to offer the prestigious citizenship program, normally open only to children who have demonstrated qualities of leadership and patriotism.

The program is sponsored by the American Legion. If it succeeds, Board Member Edward Pendarvis of Charleston said he will seek to have the program placed in juvenile campuses throughout the nation.

Pendarvis is affiliated with the Boys State program. He spends several months piecing the project together and selling the DYS Program to the American Legion on the premise that children with severe behavior problems need citizenship training as much — if not more — than other children.

The Youth Services program will be open to both sexes and will stress family life as well as government and will emphasize responsibility for self and others. The agency's program will be two days in-

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Director's Dialogue . .

by
Grady A. Decell



We have recently republished our agency goals so that all staff members might be aware of them and their importance in helping troubled children. I would like to state them for you:

Divert from the Juvenile Justice System.

Every reasonable effort must be made to divert children away, and into other resources for social control, assistance or treatment. Implicit in this concept is the necessity for promoting and supporting the development of community resources capable of meeting the needs and resolving the problems of those diverted. The agency must take a leadership role in achieving these changes in the community.

Minimize penetration into the Juvenile Justice System.

The deeper a child penetrates the existing juvenile justice system and the more frequently he is recycled through it, the greater is the probability he will continue his delinquent behavior. The availability of multiple alternatives for decision-making at each step of the process will increase the probability a child's penetration into the system will be minimized.

Maximize capacity for differential care, treatment and custody.

The department must develop a capacity for differential diagnosis and care. Also expressed is the development of techniques for control and treatment that are specific to a child's areas of need and the capacity on the part of court personnel to help in the development of specific plans to achieve these objectives.

Normal correctional experience.

Every effort should be made to make the child's experience in a detention setting, a group home or community-based treatment center as relevant to his normal life resources as public attitude and imagination permit. Treatment and reintegration objectives are enhanced if the child can be helped at or very close to his home, family and community.

Maximize the involvement of the volunteer and the child as agents of change.

Utilizing the child or the volunteer as an agent of change provides children and others with opportunities for new role definitions and life styles that have consequences for both the treater and the treated. Implicit here is the willingness of the department to actively engage youngsters and volunteers in the process of changing behavior through helping others.

Minimize the time in the Juvenile Justice System.

If the threat of contamination of the unsophisticated by the sophisticated is real, then it follows that each individual child should be kept in the system for the shortest period of time commensurate with his problems and needs. This can be facilitated by setting specific objectives to be achieved by both the child and those who are correcting him. When institutionalization is necessary, it should not exceed that amount of time necessary to start the process of changing patterns of adjustment.

Maximize research and evaluation for feedback and organizational change.

Juvenile court processes or programs do not easily lend themselves to effective measurement and the relative newness of the art has not allowed for the development of skills or the standardization of methods. The presence of these very real problems cannot justify the continued failure to try. Implicit in this statement is the conviction that even crude measures if objectively derived are better than precedent, hunch and prejudice. Programs that involve evaluation and effective feedback are requisite for organizational growth and development.

New programs will have not validity in the future than they have had in the past if they are not systematically developed and tested in the light of agreed upon premises and objectives.

Bumper Sticker "Success"

Columbia, S. C. — The letter began:

"Sirs,

"Saw your sticker on the window of an exam room in our leukemia clinic. For a lot of our patients at Glennor, the number of days allotted to hugging are limited and the parents are keenly aware of that fact."

Another said:

"These bumper stickers are a terrific way of telling parents to communicate to their children in a special way."

A third added, "They are adorable. Hope it helps 'spread the word' here in our area. We'll display proudly."

Another noted, "My Mother is a teacher and I am going to be one in two years. I think that these stickers would be appropriate for a teacher's car."

And still another: "I must say I was quite impressed with your bumper sticker and compliment you on your creativity. I work in a community counseling service at Fort Carson where we are very much involved with the children of the community. We strongly advocate strong ties between children and their parents. This sticker, I feel, would be most appropriate for this type of community."

These letters are from more than hundreds on file at the S. C. Department of Youth Services, requesting copies of the agency's bumper sticker and adding a message of their own. The bumper sticker, "Have You Hugged Your Kid Today?" has gained international acceptance, primarily because of its universal appeal.

A short article in the January-February issue of **Children Today** magazine mentioned the bumper stickers, and said they could be gotten from the S. C. Department of Youth Services. By happenstance, the February issue of **Reader's Digest** carried an article, "Did You Hug Your Child Today?"

"And that inundated us," says the Rev. Horace B. Youngblood, Supervisor of Chaplaincy for the agency and dispenser of the prized stickers. "We've received over 40,000 requests so far, much, much more than we're able to fill. But we hope to get enough sponsors to fill all of them."

The agency doesn't have the 12 cents or so it takes to print each vinyl red-and-white sticker, nor the cost of mailing them, so it depends on donations from outside sources to cover the cost.

Rev. Youngblood has devised a form letter in which the recipient of the donated bumper sticker will know who the donor is. This in return, has led to a rebounding of good will. Recipients, in some cases, have written the donors, starting a secondary chain of friendship based on the sticker, and they, in turn, have also sponsored stickers!

"It's remarkable to think what so simple a message has done to so many people," said Rev. Youngblood. "The good feeling, the gentle prick of one's conscience, and the thanks we receive are constant signs of joy to us."

The Department of Youth Services is the state agency in South Carolina for rehabilitating juvenile offenders. The bumper sticker was created in October, 1974 by the public information staff and the Youth Bureau Division of the agency to answer a common problem: how to publicize the Youth Bureau — the community-oriented division — and how to help parents work with their children.

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stead of the normal six at the annual Boys State program at the Citadel in Charleston.

The program will incorporate a session on "The Importance of You," including where the child has been, where he is and where he is going. Normal governmental and mock elections will also be included.

The Youth Advocate is published quarterly by the S. C. Department of Youth Services, Box 21487, Columbia, S. C. 29221. It is entered as third class mail at the Columbia Post Office. All inquiries to the newsletter, including address changes, should be addressed to the editor.

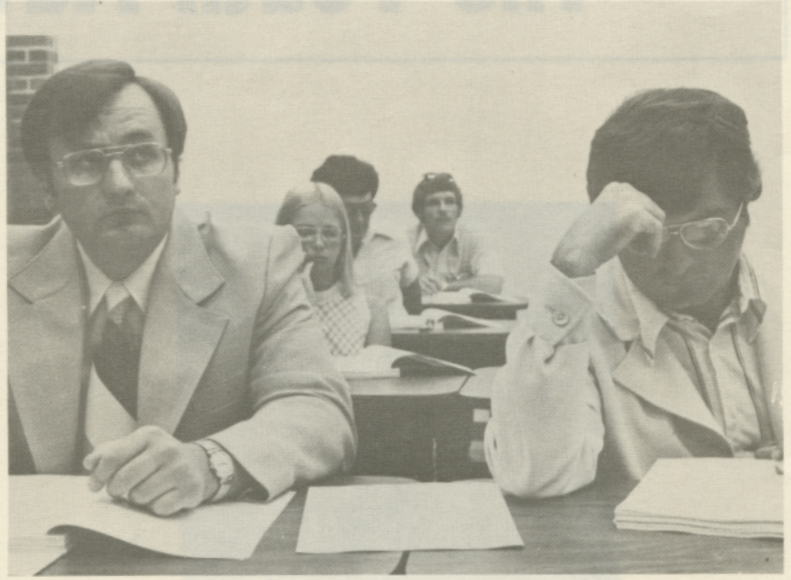
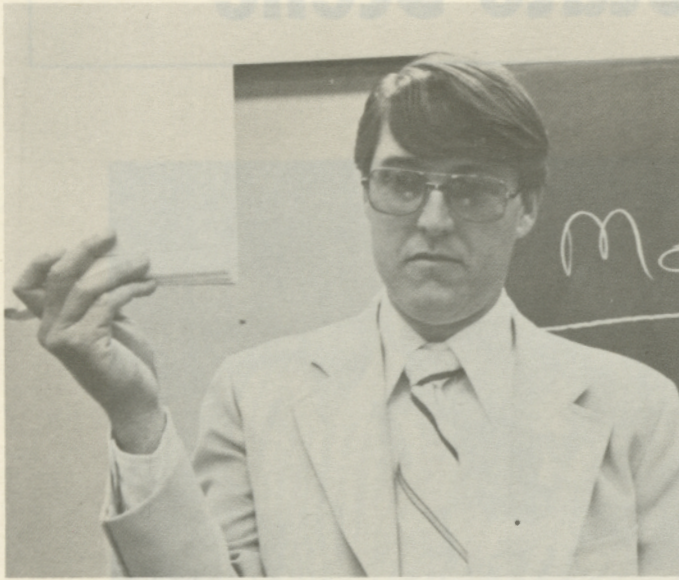
Mrs. Lucy T. Davis Chairman
Grady A. Decell Director
Edward B. Borden Editor

The Youth Advocate Scene



Annual Picnic

State Director Grady Decell raps with the Rev. James Pilgrim, Willow Lane, at the Annual Picnic Aug. 8 (upper left) at R. G. Bell Camp. Students Gloria Doughty and Patricia Lecroy help prepare potato salad with Ms. Gwen Stevens in the R&E Cafeteria (upper right). Relaxing on the porch are John Berry, Maintenance, William McPherson, Farm, and Sam Harmon, Maintenance (lower left). Picnickers included Gwen Stevens, Birchwood, Nancy Dial, Willow Lane and Sanchez Riveria, Security Officer.



Training Session

Project Developer Jim Lewis, left, discusses intake and probation procedures with more than 30 family court workers in a recent training session at the Criminal Justice Academy. The session was designed to acquaint probation officers and other court officials with procedures that will be implemented next year.



Rocky

Dave Johnson and Eddie Varnadore portrayed "The Trainer" and "Rocky" in the Department of Youth Services' adaptation of "Rocky," held in the Birchwood Campus Gym.



Eye Of The Camera

No, that's not the face of a science fiction monster, but Julius Gabriel, Chief of Maintenance, photographing the photographer. This photo was taken near the Willow Lane Gym.

"Exactly Where I Want To Be" Says Harris

COLUMBIA — "This is where I want to be," Tommy Harris says from his office on the S. C. Department of Youth Services' Birchwood Campus. "Exactly where I want to be."

Harris, named today as the agency's "Male Employee of the Year," is Director of Cottage Life. It's his responsibility to supervise all youth counselors on the campus.

"I learned my way from the ground up," the soft-spoken Winnsboro native says. "Literally. I was a graduate of Fairfield High School and I'd gone into the Marines rather than get drafted into the Army. I used my time there to decide what I wanted to do."

After service Harris came back

to Winnsboro and applied for a job with the Department of Youth Services. "I was hired in September, 1970. I was hired one afternoon and went to work in the old Pickens Cottage that night."

At that time, the cottage held the worst offenders at the agency. "I didn't like it at first," he says, "but after a couple of weeks I found it wasn't too bad. I spent all that first night rapping with a couple of boys. Suddenly I found this is the type of work I wanted to do."

Harris will get his Associate degree in Criminal Justice from Midlands Tech next year. He plans to transfer to the University of South Carolina and get a bachelor's and possibly an MA in the same field.

"I was here when Dr. Gene Hendrix (Unit Coordinator of the Birchwood Campus) came. He helped a lot in my perception of my work and in my attitude towards the kids. But it was Camille Graham (former Supervisor of Social Services for the campus) who really got me going."

"It was just a big struggle. I was having problems all the time. She very patiently showed me what I was doing wrong in my relations with the students. The clincher was when she assigned a student to me personally. I had to write up his treatment plan among other things. It was a revelation to me to watch the boy progress and move out of the system. As far as I know today he's doing okay."

Harris says his biggest initial

problem "concerned my attitude. I didn't want to think about kids being locked up for really bad things. I was still sensitive to their needs about being locked up. This is not meant as a brag, but I have a certain way with kids. If you don't ever reach them you haven't gained anything. I don't come down on them for the small things, and I believe in working with them and giving them a chance."

Harris' hobbies include playing basketball, football, and baseball. And when he isn't home with his wife, the former Esther Harris of Ridgeway and their two daughters, he's rapping with the students. "I like to get involved in their activities," he says matter-of-factly.

Bremer, Harris Are Employees of Year

COLUMBIA — Can a Charleston girl skip off to Panama, then marry, then find happiness in South Carolina's capitol city working for state government?

Lois Bremer did.

An avid state employee since 1948, Mrs. Bremer is Supervisor of Accounting for the S. C. Department of Youth Services. She was named August 8 as her agency's "Female Employee of the Year."

"I know of no one more fitting to receive this award," said State Director Grady A. Decell in presenting a plaque and joint letter of commendation signed by he and Governor James B. Edwards. "Mrs. Bremer is conscientious, knowledgeable and efficient. It is no secret that she and the five employees under her supervision play an important role in this agency's fiscal soundness."

A graduate of Meminger High School and Rice Business College, Mrs. Bremer went to work for the U. S. Government in Panama shortly before World War II.

"It was a temporary thing, but I thoroughly enjoyed it," says Mrs. Bremer. "It was my fling before marriage and I had a darned good time."

Mrs. Bremer was a secretary. She was sent home at the outbreak of the war. "Oh, I guess I could have stayed if I'd wanted to, but my mother was nervous about my being there and so I came home."

Shortly thereafter she married William Bremer, a sheet metal mechanic. They were married for thirty-three years until his death in 1975. They have two sons, W. Perry Bremer, employed by Can-Ran in West Columbia, and Norman E. Bremer, part owner of a collection agency in Rock Hill.

She worked with an electrical firm in Charleston for several years. When the family moved to Columbia, she took temporary employment with the S. C. Area Trade Schools (now Midlands Tech). She was hired on as a full time accountant when her six months ended, handling accounting and payroll.

In 1971, she transferred to the Department of Youth Services. She initiated the "Annual Financial Report Booklet" for the accounting section; handled Title XX reports; and developed the first Indirect Cost Proposal for the agency.

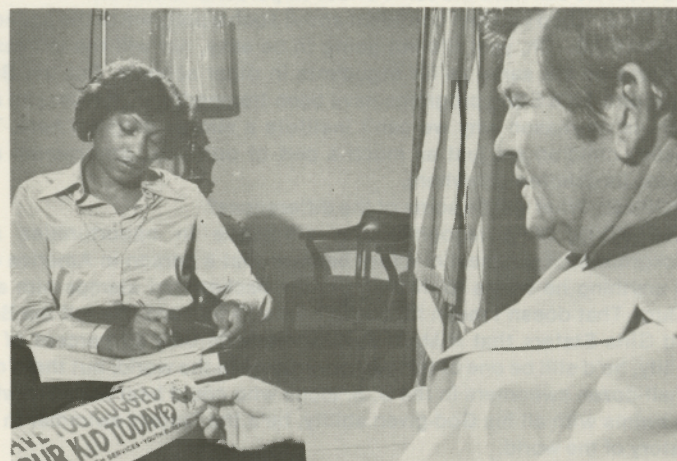
An active member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Mrs.

Bremer taught adult Sunday School; was awarded a life member pin from the United Lutheran Church Women for outstanding work; formed a Cub Scout troop that was sponsored by her church and served as den mother from 1957-64; was a charter member of the Springdale Women's Club and served in every leadership capacity since its founding.

Mrs. Bremer was a vice president of the Lexington County

Mental Health Association; is currently finance chairman of the S. C. Federation of Women's Clubs and was a member of the board of the S. C. State Employees' Association.

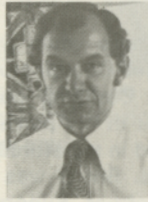
"I've enjoyed working in state government," she says. "The state has some of the greatest benefits. I don't think I'd trade my job for anyone else's. I've had a full and happy career."



BUMPER STICKER STUDY

The Rev. Horace B. Youngblood, Chief of Chaplains, discusses the Agency's Bumper Sticker with Krystal Harris, WIS-TV Reporter, during a recent interview.

Profile: Edward T. Pendarvis Vice Chairman



Editor's Note: Edward T. Pendarvis, a Charleston real estate developer, has been deeply involved with young people for several years. Pendarvis, an Allendale native and 1965 graduate of The Citadel, is director of the American Legion Palmetto Boys State program which sponsors a "laboratory in government" each year for over 600 rising seniors, representing high schools throughout South Carolina. He is also a member of the Charleston Advisory Board of the Salvation Army.

PROFILE asked Pendarvis about his involvement in youth programs:

PROFILE: How do you see your role as a board member with the Department of Youth Services?

PENDARVIS: I feel the main reason that Gov. (James B.) Edwards asked me to serve on the board is my work with Palmetto Boys State. I feel my background of 16 years in that terrific program will allow me to make a contribution to the Department of Youth Services.

There is no question then children at the agency — as much as those in schools throughout the state — are the greatest natural resource for the future of South Carolina.

PROFILE: You've been a board member a year now. What is the difference between Boys State candidates and those at the agency?

PENDARVIS: In my opinion, the single most important factor a young person needs to develop is personal motivation. You can really see the personal motivation and enthusiasm that most young people have, especially those that are selected to represent their schools at Boys State. They have been selected because of their performance in school. We look for leadership ability and potential in our programs. It's the key. The young people that attend Boys State and Girls State are very positive people. They are highly motivated. I don't believe that many of the agency's students have this personal motivation or positive outlook, either in themselves or in their future.

PROFILE: You're going to be involved in personal motivation in the agency program with Boys state ...

PENDARVIS: Yes. We're working out the details for a similar program at Youth Services now. It will be geared toward "You are important to me and to the future of South Carolina" and "Don't talk about yesterday, that's past. Talk about today, tomorrow and what you're going to do with the rest of your life." It will be positive. I am a pretty optimistic person and I feel we can have the same effect on personal initiative.

PROFILE: Then you feel confident about such a program in the agency?

PENDARVIS: Oh, yes! It's not going to be easy, nor will the indices of success be the same as for students in other schools. But the Boys State and Girls State programs have been tremendously successful and there is no reason why we can't institute a similar program here. The agency children are just as much a part of our lives, government and future, as children elsewhere.

PROFILE: What will be some of the differences?

PENDARVIS: We'll recognize the difference in opportunities and background, of course. I'm a firm believer that a person in America can do anything he wants to. Nothing in his background stamps him as a failure. That doesn't mean he doesn't have to try hard. We tell the Boys and Girls States that if Mark Spitz swam with only 95 percent of his ability, he'd still be one of the best swimmers in the world, but there'd be a half-dozen swimmers in the U. S. alone who could beat him. But when he swims with all his God-given ability, he's the fastest swimmer in the history of the world.

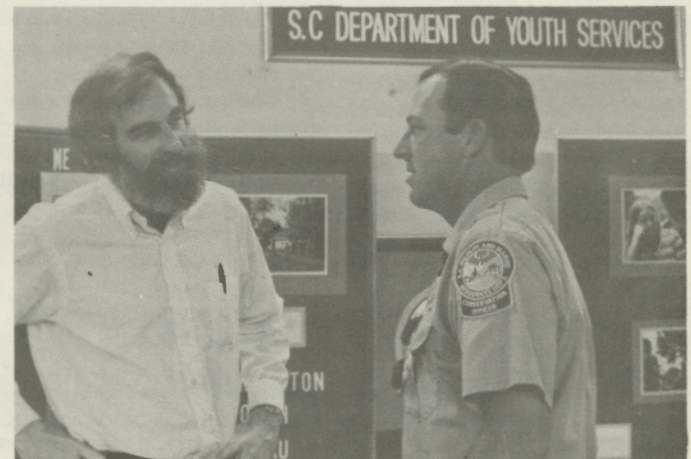
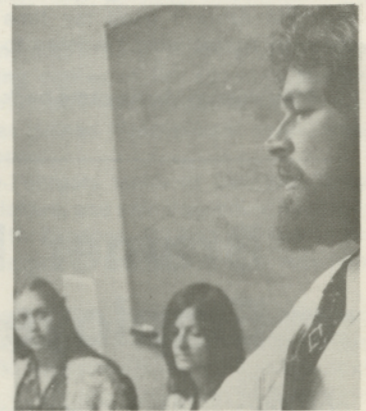
PROFILE: Can you sum up your philosophy and approach?

PENDARVIS: If a person is properly motivated; if he tries his best; if he believes in himself, he'll make his contribution to society. The Department of Youth Services has made great strides in helping young people prepare for the future. Your staff is qualified and motivated. My goal will be to give the individual some tools he will need to do the job for his future. Together we can do that. I look forward to the opportunity.



SCSEA CAMPAIGN

Deputy Director for Administrative Services J. P. Neal Jr. and State Director Grady A. Decell hand S. C. State Employees' Association Director Larry Ellis a check symbolizing the Agency's involvement in a pioneering membership recruiting project. Joe Jones, right, SCSEA Public Information Director, chats with DYS employees.



AGENCY DISPLAY

Charles Youth Bureau Correctional Counselor Raymond Summerlin chats with a visitor during a showing of the Agency's Display in Charleston County. The Display reveals facets of the Agency and is available to be shown at public functions.

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Eaker was employed by the S. C. State Hospital in Columbia from 1961-64; by the Florence Mental Health Clinic from 1965-66; and has been with the Columbia

Area Mental Health Center as chief psychologist and assistant director since 1969.

Dr. Eaker is married to the former Joyce Betts of Timmons ville. They have two children.